



THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDS OF  
OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION  
OCT. 17-19, 1996 WILL FEATURE  
**THE LONE RANGER**  
**AND ME, BOBBY BENSON.**

HOLIDAY INN NORTH, NEWARK, NJ

**RETURN  
WITH US  
NOW TO  
THOSE  
THRILLING  
DAYS OF  
YESTER-  
YEAR  
AND  
TOMORROW!**

**JOHN  
HART**





—JUST REVISED—

\*\*\*\*\*

**The New, Revised Ultimate History**  
**of Network Radio Programming and**  
**Guide to All Circulating Shows**

\*\*\*\*\*

*written by Jay Hickerson, October, 1996*  
*Editor of Hello Again*

- # *500-page reference book listing over 6000 network, regional, local and syndicated radio programs. (Soft cover and spiral bound)*
- # *Traces each program by giving broadcast dates, sponsors, network and air time. Often a brief description with one or two cast members is given. The main purpose, however, is to trace each program by showing when it was on the air.*
- # *Includes theme music titles if known.*
- # *Lists ALL shows available to collectors*

**INCLUDES ALL INFORMATION TO**  
**DATE. MUCH NEW INFORMATION**  
**GATHERED SINCE 1992.**

**Cost: \$46** plus \$4 postage and handling (New Purchasers)

**Cost: \$36** plus \$4 for previous purchasers of book and supplements

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## SCHEDULE - 1996

**Wednesday:** Complimentary Wine and Cheese for overnight guests and committee from about 6  
- 10 pm; Dealers can start setting up in the afternoon

**All programs in the Lenox/Tiffany Rooms; All re-creations in the  
Dresden/Lenox/Tiffany Rooms**

**Readings, meetings in the Sutton Room**

**Dealers in Conference, Waterford and Ascot Rooms**

### **Thursday:**

9:00 - 5:00	Dealers
12:00 - 1:00	Art Singer presents Arthur Godfrey: The Making of a new A & E Biography Program
1:30 - 2:30	Archives and Museums (Michael Henry)
3:00 - 4:00	Comic Strips to Air (Bob Madison)
4:30 - 5:30	Revisit starting and maintaining OTR collection (Bob Burnham and others)
5:30 - 8:00	Cocktails and Dinner; raffle
8:00 - 8:15	"Who's on First" with Larry and John Gassman
8:30 - 9:15	Lone Ranger (WXYZ) panel
9:30 - 10:15	Re-creation of "The Lone Ranger" entitled "The Wizard" written by Jim Nixon. Guests include John Hart, Reg Jones, Fred Foy, Fran Striker, Jr., Dick Beals, Bob Hastings (Directed by Anthony Tollin)

### **Friday Morning and Afternoon**

9:00 - 5:00	Dealers
9:00 - 9:45	Ed Clute and Arthur Anderson presents Commercial Jingles and Radio themes
10:00 - 10:45	Radio Premiums (Jack French)
11:00 - 11:45	Canadian Radio and the CBC (Carl Banas, Ken Borden, Sam Levene)
12:00 - 12:45	Radio and Politics (Gary Yoggy)
1:00 - 2:00	Gotham Radio Players present Dick Tracy "Case of the Blackmailing Swami." (Directed by Steve Lewis; produced by Max Schmid). Also we visit the Bickersons
2:15 - 3:15	Science fiction on radio (Anthony Tollin, George Lefferts, Gordon Payton)
3:30 - 4:30	Irv Settler presents "The Golden Days of Radio"
4:45 - 5:30	Author's Panel (Ron Lackmann, Cynthia Clements, Bill Owen)

### **Friday Evening**

5:30 - 7:45	Cocktails and Dinner, raffle
7:45 - 8:00	NBHF Award to Eddie Bracken; presented by Art Schreiber
8:15 - 9:00	Re-creation of Bobby Benson with Clive Rice, Ivan Cury and Will Hutchins (Directed by Don Ramlow)
9:00 - 9:45	Re-creation: Mysterious Traveler "The Last Survivor" written by Dave Kogan: with Ralph Bell, Lon Clark, Bob Dryden, Ted Mallie (Directed by Anthony Tollin)

## Saturday Morning and Afternoon

- 9:00 – 3:00 Dealers
- 9:00 – 9:45 From Vaudeville to God (Burns and Allen): a presentation by John and Larry Gassman; also with Cynthia Clements
- 10:00 – 10:45 Minorities in Radio (Mitchell Weisberg with Maurice Ellis)
- 11:00 – 11:45 Lee Munsick talks with Gene Rayburn
- 12:15 – 1:15 Bob Lissauer talks about American Popular Music and Radio
- 1:30 – 2:15 Raymond Edward Johnson presents...
- 2:15 – 3:00 Last visit to the dealers
- 2:45 – 3:45 Salute to NBC: 70th Anniversary (Dick Dudley is moderator. With Arthur Anderson, George Ansbro, Fred Collins, Ruth Last
- 4:00 – 5:30 Re-creation of Mercury Theater of the Air "Treasure Island" with Dick Beals, Elliott Reid, Jackson Beck, Sybil Trent (Directed by Arthur Anderson)

## Saturday Evening

- 5:30 – 8:00 Cocktails and Dinner, raffle, some awards
- 8:15 – 8:50 Re-creation of The Lone Ranger "20th Anniversary Show" with John Hart, Dick Beals, Fred Foy, Earl George, Elaine Hyman, Jackson Beck, Reg Jones (directed by Anthony Tollin)
- 9:00 – 9:20 Awards
- 9:30 – 10:15 Re-creation: The Canterville Ghost with Jean Gillespie, Rosemary Rice, Louise Erickson, Will Hutchins (Directed by Gary Yoggy)



## SPECIAL GUESTS

**ARTHUR ANDERSON** – *Hotel For Pets, Let's Pretend*

**GEORGE ANSBRO** – (Announcer) ABC

**DICK BEALS** – *The Lone Ranger; "Speedy" Alka-Seltzer*

**JACKSON BECK** – (Announcer) *Superman; Mark Trail*

**RALPH BELL** – *Mysterious Traveler; Superstition; Dimension X*

**EDDIE BRACKEN** – *Eddie Bracken Show*

**EUGENE CLARK** – (Engineer for Mutual)

**LON CLARK** – *Nick Carter*

**FRED COLLINS** – (Announcer) *X – 1; The Chase*

**IVAN CURY** – *Bobby Benson*

**DICK DUDLEY** – (Announcer) *Archie Andrews; many other NBC shows*

**MAURICE ELLIS** – *Huckleberry Finn; Hilltop House*

**LOUISE ERICKSON** – *A Date With Judy; Great Gildersleeve*

**RAY ERLBORN** – (Sound effects) *Al Pearce, Gateway to Hollywood*

**HARRY FLEETWOOD** – *Music Through the Night (WNBC)*

**FRED FOY** – (Announcer) *The Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston of the Yukon*

**EARL GEORGE** – *Captain Midnight, Ma Perkins, Doc Savage*

**JEAN GILLESPIE** – *Alan Young; Aldrich Family*

**JOHN HART** – (Radio) *Sam Spade; (Television) The Lone Ranger; (Serials) Jack Armstrong*

**BOB HASTINGS** – *Archie Andrews*

**GLADYS HOLLAND** – *Ma Perkins; Dragnet*

**WILL HUTCHINS** – (Television) *Blondie, Sugarfoot*

**ELAINE HYMAN** – *The Lone Ranger*

**RAYMOND EDWARD JOHNSON** – *Inner Sanctum, Young Hickory*

**DAVID KOGAN** – (Writer) *Mysterious Traveler; Nick Carter*

**RUTH LAST** – *Let's Pretend, Quiet Please*

**GEORGE LEFFERTS** – (Writer) *X – 1, Believe It Or Not*

**ABBY LEWIS** – *House in the Country, Road of Life*

**GIL MACK** – *Chick Carter, The Thin Man*

**TED MALLIE** – (Announcer) Mutual

**MARY JANE MASTAPETER** – (Casting Director)

**BOB MOTT** – (Sound Effects Artist)

**BILL OWEN** – (Announcer for Mutual)

**PETER RANKIN** – *Buster Brown; The Shadow*

**GENE RAYBURN** – worked with Dee Finch as comedy team. Host and announcer on television (*Match Game; Steve Allen*)

**ELLIOTT REID** – *March of Time; Lorenzo Jones*

**CLIVE RICE** – *Bobby Benson*

**ROSEMARY RICE** – *Archie Andrews*

**KEN ROBERTS** – (Announcer) *The Shadow; Ellery Queen*

**ADELE RONSON** – *Buck Rogers, John's Other Wife*

**TERRY ROSS** – (Sound effects Artist)

**MARGOT STEVENSON** – *The Shadow*

**SYBIL TRENT** – *Let's Pretend*

**FRANCES von BERNHARDI** – (Casting Director)

**BETTY WRAGGE** – *Pepper Young's Family*

**BILL ZUCKERT** – *Mysterious Traveler; Joyce Jordan*

**JANET CANTOR GARI** – Eddie Cantor's Daughter

**BRIAN GARI** – Eddie Cantor's grandson

**MARLA CANTOR** – Daughter of Charlie Cantor

This convention is dedicated to  
Whit Vernon



## **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Sutton/Ascot Rooms** will be available much of the time from Thursday through Saturday night. They should be used for interviews, meetings and rehearsals.

1. No smoking in convention area, please. This means **NO SMOKING** in halls and near registration area.

2. Do not interview in hallways and please do not congest the registration area. Interviews are to be held in the Sutton/Ascot rooms mentioned above.

3. Interviews and autographs are **NOT** to be gotten in the workshop rooms after the workshops. Use the conference rooms or Sutton/Ascot Rooms. We must get ready for the next workshop.

4. A cash sandwich bar will be open for lunch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in convention area. Complimentary coffee, bagels and muffins will be available Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

5. All audio and video tapes of the convention can be ordered from AVPRO, Box 1392, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531; (909) 244-5242

## **COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOP LEADERS**

### **GENERAL CHAIRMAN:**

Jay Hickerson

### **PROGRAM AND RE-CREATION DIRECTORS:**

Don Ramlow, Arthur Anderson,

Anthony Tollin, Gary Yoggy, Jim Nixon, Max Schmid and Steve Lewis

### **PUBLICITY:**

Sean Dougherty

### **CONVENTION GUEST COORDINATORS**

Jeff and Walt Muller

### **RIDE COORDINATOR**

Bill Nadel

### **SOUND ENGINEERS**

Terry Ross, Bill Siudmak

### **SOUND EFFECTS**

Ray Erlenborn, Bob Mott,

Anthony Tollin, Steve Lewis, Bill Nadel, Bob Madison

### **ALL OTHERS:**

Anna Jean Yoggy

Bob Burchett

Jack French

Dave Easter

Jan Easter

Meridy Erlenborn

Michael Henry

Bob Lissauer

Lee Munsick

Carl Banas

Bob Burnham

Suzanne Siegel

Dick Dudley

Mary Ramlow

Arlene Sabba

Mitchell and Eva Weisberg

Irv Settel

Larry and John Gassman

Raymond Edward Johnson

Ed Clute

## **FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:**

1997: October 23 – 25...1998: October 22 – 24...1999: October 21 – 23

## REMINISCING

Old-time radio buffs have been honoring the radio stars of yesteryear annually since 1971, when our first old-time radio convention was held. The popularity of the conventions has grown steadily over the past 20 years. The first convention hosted 4 special guests. This year we are honoring over 50 actors, actresses, writers, producers, directors and technicians from the East and West Coasts who made the age of radio a truly golden era. What better way to pay tribute to all our guests than to meet them in person at this, our 20th annual convention of the **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO**, and express the enjoyment their performances brought and still bring to us.

The **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO, Inc.** is a group of fans and collectors who meet once a year for this non-profit convention. All monies collected are used for hotel, transportation and other convention costs.

The **Allen Rockford Award** was established in 1979 following the death of Allen Rockford at the age of 35 on March 29. Allen was coeditor with Don Richardson of **Nostalgia Radio News**, an excellent monthly OTR publication. The publication started when Allen started his coverage of stations in central New York and Canada carrying Old-time radio. This led to **Nostalgia Radio News**. Allen was active in putting early radio on central New York stations and carried his own show called **Sounds of Yesterday** for several years on WRVO-FM in Oswego. He was an announcer and newscaster for WONO in Syracuse for many years. With Don Richardson, Allen also ran Double-R-Radio, a business specializing in tapes and recordings of old-time radio shows. Allen was an authority on early radio and constantly helped anyone who needed it.

### RECIPIENTS ALLEN ROCKFORD AWARD

1979	Ken Piletic	1987	SPERDVAC
1980	Charles Ingersoll	1988	Barbara Watkins
	John Dunning		Barry Hill
1981	Charles Stumpf	1989	Bob Burchett
1982	Roger Hill		Terry Salomonson
1983	Ray Stanich	1990	Don Aston
1984	Jim Snyder		Dave Warren
	Bob Burnham	1991	Tom Monroe
1985	Dick Osgood		Anthony Tollin
1986	Frank Bresee	1992	Max Schmid
1993	Jack French		Gary Yoggy
	Larry & John Gassman	1994	Bill Bragg
1995	Joe Webb		David Siegel
	Art Schreiber		
	Bobb Lynes		

### SPECIAL AWARDS

1979	Raymond Edward Johnson	1985	Ken Ross
	Rosa Rio		Terry Ross
1980	Bob Prescott Jr.		Mrs. Brace Beemer
	Pete Prescott		Jay Hickerson
1981	Mike Warren	1986	Max Schmid
1982	(None)	1987	Sidney Slon
1983	Arthur Anderson		Anthony Tollin
	Fran Striker Jr.	1988	Bob Steele and Ezra Stone
1984	Don Richardson	1989	Florence Williams
	Jackson Beck		Dwight Weist
1990	Margot Stevenson		Joe Franklin
	George Ansbro	1991	Fran Carlon
1992	Ken Roberts		Ray Erlenborn
	Peg Lynch		Barney Beck
1993	Lon Clark	1994	Bob Dryden
	Adele Ronson		Arthur Tracy
1995	Earl George		
	Bob Hastings		

### DONATIONS

Frank Nelson Scholarship Fund	Society for Singers (2)
Veteran's Bedside Network (6)	Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation (5)
Actor's Fund	Thousand Oaks Library
Episcopal Actor's Guild (4)	Billy Rose Collection, N Y Public Library
OTR Defense Fund	Kate Smith Foundation
Heller Memorial Foundation of AFTRA (2)	



## BIOGRAPHIES OF CONVENTION GUESTS

### JEAN GILLESPIE

Jean Gillespie started doing radio in her hometown of Boston, Mass. while still in drama school. She worked at both the CBS and NBC outlets while doing summer stock at the Brattle Theater in Cambridge. It was there she joined Actors Equity and became a professional.

After moving to New York City, she began working on such daytime soaps as *My True Story* and *Aunt Jenny's Real Life Stories*. Regular evening shows included *The March of Time* and *Grand Central Station* in addition to the adventure serial, *Jack Armstrong*.

Then she began playing sweet ingenues on such rough and tumble shows as *Gangbusters*, *Counterspy* and *This Is Your FBI*. During much of this period, she also worked on the Broadway stage in such hits as *Chicken Every Sunday* and in the national company of *Look Homeward Angel*.

Among Ms. Gillespie's other notable radio roles was Henry Aldrich's girlfriend Kathleen in *The Aldrich Family* and Alan Young's girlfriend Betty Dittenfeffer on *The Alan Young Show*. She also guested on *Duffy's Tavern*, *Suspense*, and *Mike Shane, Detective*. Her favorite series, however, was the critically acclaimed, but short-lived, *Tales of Willie Piper*.

Later, after raising a family, she participated in television, but returned to radio for several revivals including Hi Brown's *CBS Radio Mystery Theatre* in New York and the efforts of Fletcher Markle and Elliott Lewis in Los Angeles. She says she is happy to report that she is still "transported by the 'theater of the mind.'"

### JOHN HART

John Hart is no stranger to radio, having appeared in a number of dramatic shows early in his career. However, it is his appearance as *The Lone Ranger* in 52 episodes of the television series that gives Hart his greatest claim to fame. Most of Hart's experience came in films and such serials as *Jack Armstrong* (1947), *Brick Bradford* (1947), *The Great Adventures of Captain Kidd* (1953), *Gunfighters of the Northwest* (1954), *The Adventures of Captain Africa* (1955), and *Perils of the Wilderness* (1956) in which he appeared with TV's other Lone Ranger, Clayton Moore. He also played the newspaper editor whose hanging sent the Texas Rangers after the Cavendish gang in the 1981 film, *Legend of the Lone Ranger*. His ability as a horseman and physical good looks were strong assets and he was co-starred with Lon Chaney, Jr. in the syndicated television series *Hawkeye and the Last of the Mohicans* in the mid-fifties.



## GLADYS HOLLAND

Gladys Holland's extensive acting credits include many roles on *The Lux Radio Theatre* and continuing parts on *Ma Perkins*, *The Great Gildersleeve* and *One Man's Family*. She has also done voice-over and dubbing for such diverse films as *The Dutchess and the Drivwater Fox* and *Woody Woodpecker* cartoons.

Among her many theatrical appearances, *Anastasia* (where she won the Robby Award for best supporting actress as the Dowager Empress), *Don Juan in Hell* (as Dona Ana), *Silk Stockings* (as Ninotchka) and *The Boyfriend* (as Hortense) stand out. Ms. Holland has been seen in live television in *Climax*, *The Bob Hope Show*, *The George Gobel Show*, and *The Paul Winchell Show*. Filmed TV series include *The Hallmark Hall of Fame*, *The Roaring Twenties*, *Chico and the Man*, *Quincy*, *Blossom* and *Beverly Hills 90210* (in a recurring role).

Among her many motion picture credits are two Hitchcock classics, *To-Catch-A-Thief* and *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. She's also appeared in *Bedtime Story*, *Uzana's Raid*, *The Exorcist II* and *Killing Zoe*.

## WILL HUTCHINS

Will Hutchins is best known for playing Tom "Sugarfoot" Brewster in the popular Warner Brothers TV Western from 1957-61. As a child, he had his heart set on becoming an actor and while attending John Marshall High School, he won a Shakespearean festival best actor award in competition with college students. After earning a BA in drama from Pomona College and serving in the Army, he returned to college at UCLA pursuing a master's degree in film production. His earliest TV appearances came on *Matinee Theatre* where he won rave reviews from the critics in 1956-57 which led to his casting in *Sugarfoot* where he played the shy, reticent, friendly law student title role and later also appeared as "The Canary Kid" a ruthless, arrogant, cynical, worldly desperado who looked exactly like Tom Brewster. After *Sugarfoot* left the air, Hutchins starred in two more series, *Hey Landlord* (1966) and *Blondie* (1968) as Dagwood and kept quite busy as a great star on such popular series as *Gunsmoke*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Perry Mason* and *Love, American Style*. We are pleased to have Will here to experience first hand one of his early loves, "the theater of the mind."

## ABBY LEWIS

Miss Lewis made her acting debut in the title role of *Saint Joan* in 1930 and has been active in the theater every since. Her extensive radio career began in 1940 and includes appearances on every type of dramatic show. Her credits include: *Cavalcade of America*, *Young Widder Brown*, *Big Town*, *Suspense*, *Gangbusters*, *21st Precinct*, *Road of Life*, *Mr. Keen*, *Helen Trent*, *Back Stage Wife*, *Just Plain Bill*, *Front Page Farrell*, *Superman* and *Nick Carter*.

Her career on television has been equally varied and includes appearances on such high quality dramatic shows as *The Defenders*, *The US Steel Hour*, *The Kraft Television Theater* and *I Remember Mama* and popular comedy shows like *Sgt. Bilko* and *The Jackie Gleason Show*. Ms. Lewis' better known films include *Patterns*, *The Young Doctors* and *The Miracle Worker*.



## GILBERT MACK

Gilbert Mack, whose versatility has kept him busy in radio, theater, TV, and allied fields for the past thirty years, credits a "photographic memory" plus a lifetime spent in the great melting pot of New York, for his ability to portray practically any character, running the gamut from neurotic old men to "emotional character juveniles." Dogs and baby-cries were a standard item on his file cards at one time or another; Asta, the dog on the *Thin Man* radio series was a starring role, too. Every major record company has used his wonderful story telling techniques on hundreds of song and story children's records. Playing every male role on a radio show is no novelty for this man who has dubbed himself "Character" as a one word explanation of his art. Incidentally, in the field of "Dubbing" Gilbert Mack is constantly busy in the film studios doing English language tracks for Imported films shown in this country.

He created the role of Zito Giovanni in the successful Broadway hit, *A Bell for Adano* and created the Louis De Vito part in the short-lived *Springtime Folly* on Broadway. Past television appearances include *Studio One*, *Hallmark Theater*, *Edge of Night*, and many others. The odd and humorous voices of animated figures in countless TV commercials are seldom recognized as those of Mack.

## SYBIL TRENT

Sybil Trent, who began her acting career while still a child, is best known for her twenty years as a member of the cast of CBS' highly acclaimed children's series *Let's Pretend*. (She sang the theme song for 15 years!) Her voice was also often heard on such soap operas as *Stella Dallas*, *We Love & Learn*, and *Modern Romance*.

Later she appeared on such television shows as *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Martha Raye Show*. Her live on-camera commercial - appearances include *Night Beat* (for Cott Beverages) and *Captain Video* (for Post cereals) and filmed spots for Crisco, Tide, and Charmin Tissue. She also did voice-over spots for Pepsi-Cola, Coco-Cola, Good Luck Margarine and Rambler Autos. This was interspersed with frequent Broadway and stock appearances and such motion pictures as *Keep Em Rolling* with Walter Huston and *People's Enemy* with Melvyn Douglas.

These bios have been compiled from available information by Gary A. Yoggy. The material on Will Hutchins is taken from Yoggy's book *Riding the Video Range" The Rise and Fall of the Television Western* (McFarland, 1995).



## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

1995

The Friends of Old-time Radio held its 20th Annual Convention from October 19th – 21st, 1995 at the Holiday Inn – North, Newark, New Jersey. Celebrities present who received awards were: **Eugene Clark, Ivan Cury, Martha Greenhouse, Ed Jordan, Mary Jane Mastapeter, Paul Masterson, Gale Storm, Gil Stratton, Jr., Dick van Patten.** Other celebrities present were **Arthur Anderson, George Ansbro, Barney Beck, Lon Clark, Bob Dryden, Win Elliot, Ray Erlenborn, Harry Fleetwood, Fred Foy, Earl George, Bob Hastings, Florence James, Raymond Edward Johnson, Ruth Last, Abby Lewis, Bill Murtough, Bill Owen, Clive Rice, Rosemary Rice, Adele Ronson, Terry Ross, Arthur Tracy, Whit Vernon, Frances von Bernhardi, Betty Wragge.** The guests socialized with fans, participated in panels and workshops and re-created 8 radio shows.

The convention began Wednesday evening with complimentary wine and cheese for the overnight guests. About 75 people attended. On Thursday, many dealers opened at 9 am. There were 4 afternoon workshops: **Dave Zwengler** presented a quiz show; **Bob Madison** talked about Radio programs to the Screen; **Jack French** talked about TV programs to radio and **Bob Burnham** gave a presentation on OTR, the Computer and the Internet. Then we had cocktails and dinner. Seventy-nine fans attended during the day. One hundred sixty fans and guests attended in the evening. The highlights of the evening were: A Tribute to Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi given by **Sara Karloff and Bela Lugosi** and a re-creation of "Whistler," winner of last year's script contest written by **Michael Giorgio.** The winner of the second radio play was announced. The winner was James Nixon. The play will be presented next year.

Friday began at 9:00 with the opening of the dealers room. Sixty dealer tables were active during the convention. Two hundred fifty-four people attended dinner with another 126 in the afternoon. Workshops and panels included the following: **Jack French** presented WOR: Mutual Memories with several guests; **Gary Yoggy, Joel Senter, Mitchell Weisberg and Dave Warren** talked about Amos 'n' Andy, pro and con; **Meridy Erlenborn** with several celebrity wives discussed life with their husbands; **Steve Lewis** directed the Gotham Radio Players in the Lights Out episode, "One Day It Rained Blood;" **Larry and John Gassman** gave a tribute to Phil Harris and Alice Faye; **David Bakish** talked about Jimmy Durante on radio; and **Gary Yoggy** presented World War II, the victory as told on radio. The afternoon ended with an author's panel with **David Bakish, Gary Yoggy, Gregory Koseluk, Brian Gari, Art Pierce and Richard Hayes.** After dinner "Arsenic and Old Lace" was re-created with **Dick van Patten and Gale Storm.** Anthony Tollin was the director. Then a 75-minute Radio Review Revue with many guests ended the proceedings. It was written, produced and directed by **Dave Zwengler, Michael Giorgio and Arthur Anderson.**

Saturday the panels and workshops included the following: **Adele Ronson and Lon Clark with Gil Mack** read Buck Rogers and Chick Carter in a panel about Pulp to Radio hosted by Anthony Tollin; a sports panel with **Gil Stratton, Jr. and Win Elliot** hosted by Jeff Muller; **The Dave Warren Players** re-created Baby Snooks and Mr. Keen; **Raymond Edward Johnson** gave his annual reading and talked about Inner Sanctum; **Bill Owen, George Ansbro, Fred Foy and Ed Jordan** presented an author's panel; the afternoon ended with a re-creation of "Nightbeat." directed by Don Ramlow.

Saturday's events culminated with cocktails and buffet dinner for 321 people with another 155 coming for the day. After dinner **Peg Lynch and Bob Dryden** re-created Ethel and Albert; then **Rosemary Rice and Dick van Patten** reminisced about I Remember Mama; The convention ended with a re-creation of My Little Margie with **Gale Storm, Dick van Patten and Gil Stratton, Jr.** **Gary Yoggy** directed it.

Besides the awards mentioned earlier, three Allen Rockford Awards were presented to **Joe Webb, Art Schreiber and Bobb Lynes** for their outstanding efforts in keeping radio alive. Special awards were given to **Earl George and Bob Hastings.** Both have attended our convention for several years and have always been willing to help. Donations were given to the Veteran's Bedside Network, The Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation, The Episcopal Actors Guild and Heller Memorial Foundation of AFTRA.

I again want to thank all the guests who were very gracious in granting interviews and giving of their time to be with us.



## **BOBBY BENSON: RADIO'S COWBOY KID** by Jack French ©1996

The BOBBY BENSON radio series, in its two versions a decade apart, is unique in broadcast history since it straddled both the origin and the demise of the Golden Age of Radio.

When the show debuted in 1932 the only other juvenile shows on network radio were LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE, LONE WOLF TRIBE, and THE SINGING LADY. So the first BOBBY BENSON series predated TOM MIX, THE LONE RANGER, OG, SON OF FIRE, and JACK ARMSTRONG.

The second version of BOBBY BENSON, began in 1949 and aired until June 1955, thus virtually outlasting every other kids' dramatic series, including SUPERMAN, CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT, GREEN HORNET, STRAIGHT ARROW and SKY KING.

The creation of this remarkable Western series rests in the genius of a British citizen in Buffalo, NY who had never been west of Chicago. Herbert C. Rice, an energetic immigrant from England, had been working since 1928 at what he termed "the American BBC" (Buffalo Broadcasting Corporation consisting of WGR, WFBL, WKEN, and WKBW, all under one roof in the Rand Building.)

Rice was a radio director, writer, and actor of amazing versatility; he was the first to pair "Budd and Stoopnagle" and he discovered the talents of an 11 year old who would grow up to be "Buffalo Bob" on HOWDY DOODY. Prior to BOBBY BENSON, Rice had created dozens of local dramatic series, including POLICE STORY, THE GREEN ROSE, FEARBOUND, CLOUD TRAIL, and THE COBRA.

In 1932 the Hecker H-O Company of Buffalo approached Rice and offered to sponsor a radio series to promote their cereal products. The "H-O" in the title suggested a cattle brand to Rice and he quickly drew up a story about an orphan named Bobby Benson who inherits the H-Bar-O Ranch in Texas. Rice not only sold his idea to the Hecker people, he also convinced CBS to give the new show a network slot.

This new series, THE H-BAR-O RANGERS, began on October 17, 1932 at WGR with a cast of Buffalo actors. Richard Wanamaker, 11 year old son of a local attorney, played Bobby Benson while Rice, in addition to writing and directing the show, also played Buck Mason, the foreman, and Wong Lee, the cook. Others in the cast were Fred Dampier and Lorraine Pankow (whom Rice had married the previous year.)

The success of the series was nothing short of phenomenal. Within months, the Hecker Company had to assign twelve women full-time to answer the

fan mail and process the box-tops of H-O Oats that were arriving daily in exchange for premiums advertised on the show: Bobby Benson code book, cereal bowls, maps, drinking glasses, card games, etc.

Locally Rice promoted the show through many personal appearances by Wanamaker, dressed in a cowboy costume and riding a pony named "Silver Spot." The youngster, who was doing three radio shows a week, appeared with Ben Turpin and Snub Pollard at Shea's Buffalo Theater, and then with Monte Blue when he visited Buffalo. Wanamaker was also part of the contingent who welcomed Santa Claus to the Buffalo Airport.

When the first season of 78 episodes ended in March 1933, the series was so popular that CBS ordered the production moved to New York City where they re-cast the program. When it resumed that fall, 12 year old Billy Halop, later to achieve fame in the "Dead End Kids", took over the title role. The show was still officially THE H-BAR-O RANGERS, but most of the listeners (and the broadcasting publications) were calling it THE BOBBY BENSON SHOW.

Halop's sister, Florence, played Polly on the program. Buck Mason was changed to Tex Mason and the character of Sunny Jim (the sponsor's symbol) was gradually phased out and other characters, Diogenes Dodwaddle, Windy Wales, and Harka the Indian, were introduced.

The identity of the director in Manhattan is unknown but a prominent author, Peter Dixon, who was writing for several network shows including SKIPPY, was hired to do the scripts. Craig McDonnell played Harka and other roles, including youngsters in a falsetto voice. Woodward "Tex" Ritter, then 28 years old, who was on other radio shows including COWBOY TOM'S CAMPFIRE, LONE STAR RANGERS, and MAVERICK JIM, got to play occasional roles on BOBBY BENSON, but it's unlikely he played Tex Mason, as some sources claim.

Billy Halop was given even more star treatment than Wanamaker; photos of Halop were distributed in several radio premiums and he toured summers with the W. T. Johnson Circus Rodeo.

This 15 minute show enjoyed substantial success and logged over 700 episodes before it went off the air in December 1936. However, not one recording from this 30s series is known to exist today.

It would be thirteen years before the program was resurrected. In 1949 Rice, now a U.S. citizen and Vice President with Mutual in New York City,



brought "The "Cowboy Kid" back to network radio. With no sponsor, the ranch was re-named the B-Bar-B and the regular cast was pared down to five roles: Bobby, Tex, Windy, Harka and Irish. The versatile McDonnell was again in the cast, playing both Harka and Irish with completely different voices characterizations.

Don Knotts, then in his mid-20s, got the part of the old geezer, Windy. Ivan Cury, a talented 12 year old with over two years in radio acting, beat out several auditionees to win the title role. Rounding out the cast was veteran Charlie Irving as Tex.

A young director, Bob Novak, was in charge and Peter Dixon returned to write the scripts. However his age and illnesses prevented him from keeping pace with this series, which sometimes required five 30 minute scripts a week. Dixon's son helped a little, but the problem was not solved until Jim Shean was hired. A young man fresh out of the military, he quickly took over the bulk of the script writing responsibilities.

The series would remain on the air for about six years, and it was a sustaining show for all but one season when Kraft Foods paid the bills. The modest budget gradually shrunk, i.e. three live musicians were reduced to one organist and then merely transcribed music.

Herb Rice always pushed the personal appearances of his young star. So when he wasn't on the air, Ivan was showing up at parades, rodeos and festivals throughout the East coast, accompanied by his parents. But when Rice tried to send "Bobby Benson" overseas (the show was also popular on AFRS), Ivan's father put his foot down and refused permission.

So Rice corralled a young singer, Bobby McKnight, dressed him up as "Bobby Benson" and sent him on a ten day tour of Europe. Thereafter, McKnight handled most of the public appearances while Cury had all the microphone duties. Later, Rice designated his executive assistant, Mary Jane Williams, to be the "Bobby Benson" chaperone.

In early 1951 Ivan left the B-Bar-B for a role on "Portia Faces Life" and more free lance work. McKnight was pressed into service as the new Bobby Benson but he lacked radio experience and, as his voice was starting to squeak into maturity, a replacement was sought.

Among those considered for the title role was a 10 year old lad born in Surrey, England, whose family had just immigrated to the U.S. in October 1950. Clive Rice, a nephew of Herb's, auditioned under the name of Clyde Campbell so the decision of the WOR executives would not be influenced

unfairly. Clive won the role, and after some quick diction lessons at the Alfred Dixon School to "Americanize" his dialect, he joined the cast in the WOR studios in April 1951.

Jim Goode was the sound effects man, with occasional assistance of Barney Beck. Frank Milano did all the animal voices and other regulars on the show were Bill Zuckert, Earl George, Gil Mack, Ross Martin, Jim Boles, and his wife Athena Lord. The announcer was Carl Warren. In the summer of 1951 Bob Haig took over the role of Tex from Charlie Irving.

"Bobby Benson" was once played by a girl! Clive's sister, Rosemary Rice (not the actress with the same name) was in the studio to observe his rehearsal and a live performance. Just before the "On The Air" sign lit up, Clive developed a profuse nosebleed. As others tried to stop the bleeding, Rosemary took his script, raced to the microphone and delivered his lines until he recovered. Since her voice sounded the same as her brother's, no one in the vast radio audience noticed the switch.

There were two BOBBY BENSON television shows WOR produced for local airing. With Ivan Cury and the rest of his radio cast (except that Al Hodge played Tex Mason) one series was shot live in the New Amsterdam Theater, but later moved to Channel 9 Studio on West 66th. This TV series was sponsored by Foxes "U-Bet" Chocolate Syrup and they gave away a live pony to contest winners.

A second series was shot in the mid-1950s with Clive Rice, also at Channel 9 Studio. The set, adjacent to that of "The Merry Mailman", was a tiny bunkhouse. The cast consisted of only three people: Clive, Tex Fletcher (real name Jerry Bisceglia) who was a cowboy singer from Harrison, NY, and a comedian named Paul Brown. This series was sponsored by Wilrich's Grape Drink.

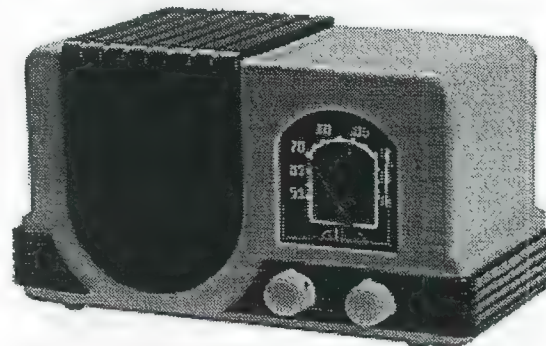
The radio show lasted to mid-1955, totaling over 350 episodes. Besides the radio and TV duties, Clive was kept busy touring the country with Mary Jane Williams; they literally went coast to coast promoting the series and related "Cowboy Kid" merchandise. And starting in 1950, there were 20 issues of a Bobby Benson comic book published, the last in 1953.

In addition to the comic books, merchandise from both series (including one Big-Little Book) our legacy from this popular program includes 16 half-hour episodes and 5 of the five-minute shows from the 1949-55 series, which are currently being traded among the BOBBY BENSON fans today.





**Best wishes to the  
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on their 21'st annual convention**



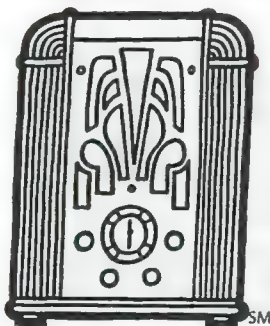
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# THE END OF THE SQUEALING REEL PROBLEM

*a procedure that old time radio fans anywhere can use to temporarily restore full playability to squealing reel-to-reel audio tapes and/or tapes that completely freeze on the machines*

By Bob Burnham

Copyright (c) 1996 by Robert R. Burnham

The folks at a major reel-to-reel blank tape manufacturer have recommended the use of a special convection oven to bake varieties of certain grades of tape whose binders dry out making them impossible to play without cleaning the machine every minute or two of operation.

Some old-time radio collectors have advocated the concept of spraying plain tap water on the tape. The "other" common method used by collectors is the continuous manual (read laborious!) application of head cleaner directly to the tape with cotton swabs. This must be done as the tape moves through the machine. Typically, this means one must sit at the machine every minute the tape is playing.

Not everyone has a convection or an industrial oven, and I don't feel the other methods that have been used by collectors (including myself) to be particularly healthy for the tape itself or the machine. Those methods are also a bit of a pain!

The "baking" of the tapes, however, also works with ANY household oven (NOT microwave) with a reasonable thermostatic control. Use an oven thermometer if you aren't certain your oven is dependable. They are available from any grocery store. Below are the steps involved that I recommend. This is not a "pure" science, so some deviation from these steps will probably also work. This is the method I have tested, however, and I can verify with reasonable certainty that if you follow these steps, it WILL work.

- 1.) If possible, first wind your reel onto a metal reel. I used an empty 10-1/2" aluminum take-up reel, but a 7" metal reel should work just as well. You may have to thread the tape directly from the supply reel to the take-up reel (by-passing the tape guides and heads) if the tape is really bad. Use a piece of masking tape to temporarily secure the tape guides to enable your machine to operate in this mode.
- 2.) Thoroughly pre-heat your oven to approximately 125 degrees. A few degrees either way should not make a difference. Then switch your oven to "bake." Imagine you're warming some left-overs or a bagel... before the days of microwave ovens.
- 3.) Place the reel on the center rack of the pre-heated oven. If you wound it onto the metal reel, it will of course, be wound tails out.
- 4.) Allow the reel to "bake" for about 30 minutes, of course, using adequate protection for your hands.
- 5.) Remove the reel from the oven. Allow it to "cool" about 15 minutes.
- 6.) Clean your tape heads and tape guides. Rewind the reel, threading in the usual manner to the start of the tape. You will find the tape passes across the tape guides just like a factory fresh tape!
- 7.) Play the tape. The tape should play perfectly all the way through.
- 8.) Make a copy of the tape onto new stock. This "baking" method is only temporary, however, it can be repeated if the squeal returns before you have time to make a copy.

I make no warranty as to the suitability of these methods for your particular situation, tape or equipment. Furthermore, if you melt your tape into a plastic blob, I will not be held responsible! If you take your time and follow these steps and the advice given, however, I have reasonable confidence that these techniques will work perfectly for you just as they did for me.

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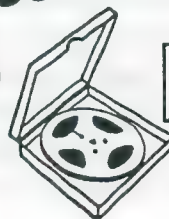
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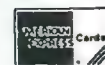
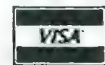
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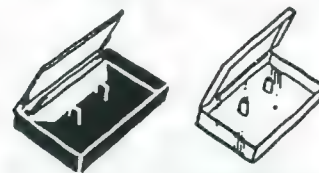
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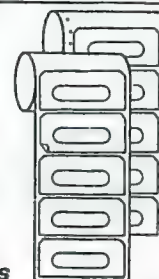
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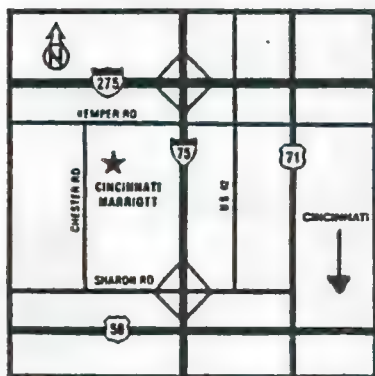
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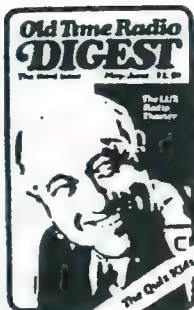
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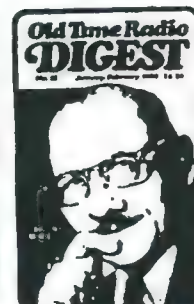
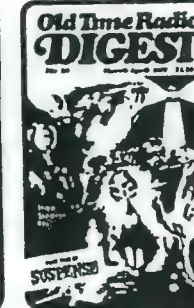
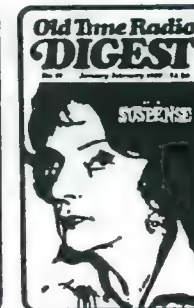
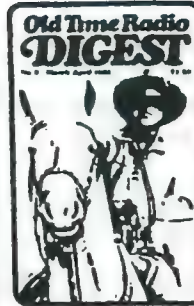
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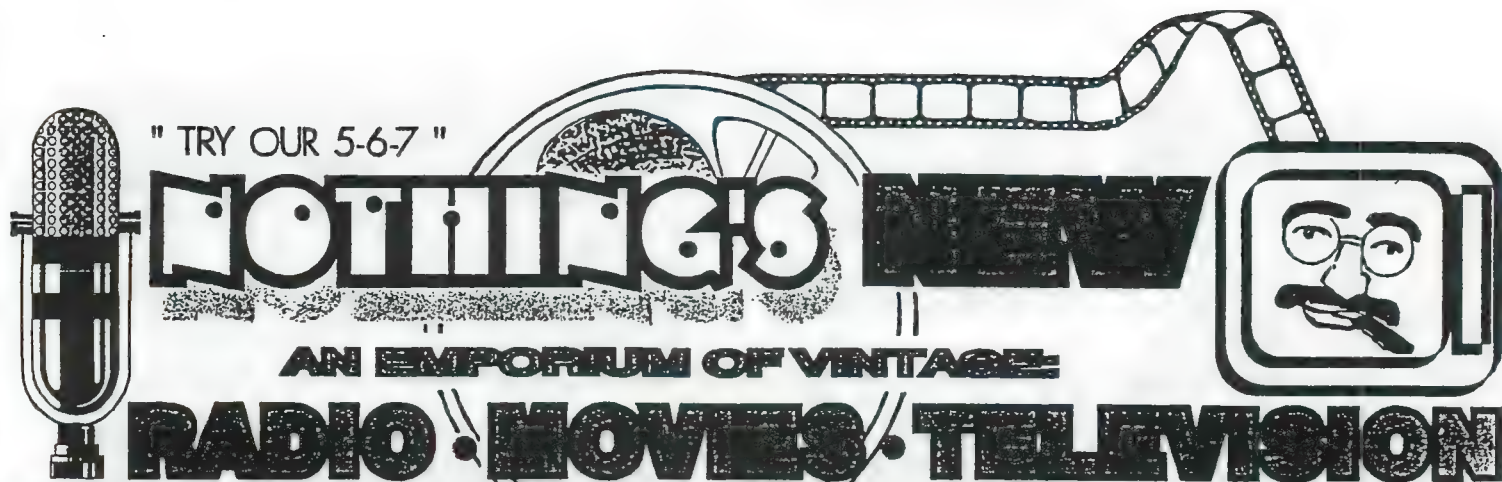
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accession #	Title	actors	year	time
A-001	Aaron Slick From Punkin' Crick	Young, A.; D. Shore	1952	95:
A-004	Abbott & Costello Go to Mars	Abbott & Costello	1953	117:
A-005	Abbott & Costello In Hollywood	Abbott & Costello	1945	123:
A-006	Abbott & Costello In The Foreign Legion	Abbott & Costello	1950	120:
A-007-1	Abbott & Costello In Society	Abbott & Costello	1944	124:
A-009	Abbott & Costello Meet Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde	Abbott & Costello	1953	117:
A-010	Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein	Abbott & Costello; B. Lugosi, L. Chaney Jr.	1948	83:
A-011	Abbott & Costello Meet The Invisible Man	Abbott & Costello	1951	123:
A-013	Abbott & Costello Meet The Killer	Abbott & Costello; Boris Karloff	1949	84:
A-014	Abbott & Costello Meet The Mummy	Abbott & Costello	1955	130:
A-018	Abeline Town	Scott, R.; A. Dvorak	1946	89:
A-019	Abominable Mr. Phibes	Price, V.; H. Griffith	1971-*	94:
A-023	Above and Beyond	Taylor, R.; E. Parker	1952	122:
A-024	Above Suspicion	Crawford, J.; F. MacMurray	1943	90:
A-026	Abraham Lincoln	Huston, W.; Una Merkel	1930	97:
A-029	Absent Minded Professor	MacMurray, F.; N. Olson	1961	97:
A-037-1	Ace High	Wallach, E.; T. Hill	1968	120:
A-037-2	Ace Drummond-serial	King, J.; J. Rogers	1936	240:
A-038-1	Aces and Eights	McCoy, T.; L. Walter	1936	62:
A-041	Across the Great Divide	Logan, R.; H. Rattray	1977	100:
A-042	Across the Wide Missouri	Gable, C.; R. Montalban	1951	118:
A-044-1	Action in Arabia	Sanders, G.; V. Bruce	1944	72:
A-045	Action in the North Atlantic	Bogart, H.; R. Massey	1943	129:
A-056	Adam Had Four Sons	Bergman, I.; W. Baxter	1941	81:
A-057	Adam's Rib	Tracy, S.; K. Hepburn	1949	100:
A-057-1	Adams Family (the original)	Astin, J.; T. Cassidy	1977	74:
A-064	Adventure	Gable, C.; G. Garson	1945	126:
A-070	Adventures of Baron Munchausen	Neville, J.; S. Polley	1989-*	126:
A-072-1	Adventures of Captain Marvel-serial	Tyler, T.; F. Cogan	1941	220:
A-074	Adventures of Don Juan	Flynn, E.; V. Linfors	1948	110:
A-074-1	Adventures of Flying Cadets-serial	Collins, D.; J. Roberts	1943	265:
A-074-2	Adventures of Frank and Jesse James-serial	Moore, C.; S. Darrel	1948	180:
A-079	Adventures of Marco Polo	Cooper, G.; S. Gurie	1938	100:
A-080	Adventures of Mark Twain	March, F.; A. Smith	1944	130:
A-082-1	Adventures of Prince Achmed -animated		1927-German	64:
A-082-2	Adventures of Red Ryder- serial	w/ Don "Red" Barry 13 episodes	1940	240: (approx.)
A-082-3	Adventures of Rex and Rinty-serial	Rin Tin Tin; K. Richmond	1936	234:
A-083	Adventures of Robin Hood	Flynn, E.; O. deHavilland	1938	143
A-083-1	Adventures of Rin Tin Tin	Rin Tin Tin; D. Wood	1937	75:
A-085	Adventures of Sadie	Collins, J.; G. Cole	1955-British	88:
A-086-1	Adventures of Smilin' Jack-serial	Brown, T.; R. Hobart	1943	265
A-088	Adventures of Tarfu	Donat, R.; V. Hobson	1943-British	103:
A-088-1	Adventures of Texas Kid	Hooker, H.; J. Lawrenty	1954	60:
A-090	Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Kelly, T.; J. Moran	1938	77:
A-094	Advise & Consent (1 colorized/1 B&W)	Fonda, H.; C. Laughton	1962	139:
A-094-1	Aelita, Queen of Mars	Solntsva, Y.; V. Kuinzhi	1924-Russian	113:
A-099	Affair in Trinidad	Hayward, R.; G. Ford	1952	98:
A-102	Affairs of Dobie Gillis	Reynolds, D.; B. Van	1953	74:
A-104	Affair to Remember, An	Grant, C.; D. Kerr	1957	115:
A-109	African Queen, The	Bogart, H.; K. Hepburn	1951	105:
A-111	Africa Screams	Abbott & Costello	1949	79:
A-111-1	Africa Speaks	/an early wildlife adventure	1930	69:
A-112	Africa - Texas Style	O'Brian, H.; J. Mills	1967	106:
A-115	After the Fox	Sellers, P.; V. mature	1966-British	103:
A-116	After the Thin Man	Powell, W.; M. Loy	1936	113:
A-117	Against A Crooked Sky	Boone, R.; S. Peterson	1975	83:
A-121-1	Aggie Appleby, Maker of Men	Gargan, W.; Z. Pitts	1933	73:



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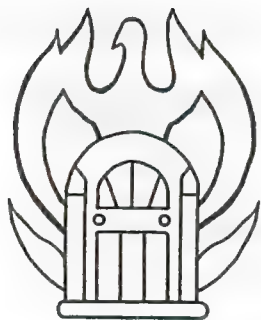
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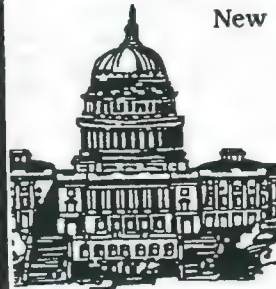
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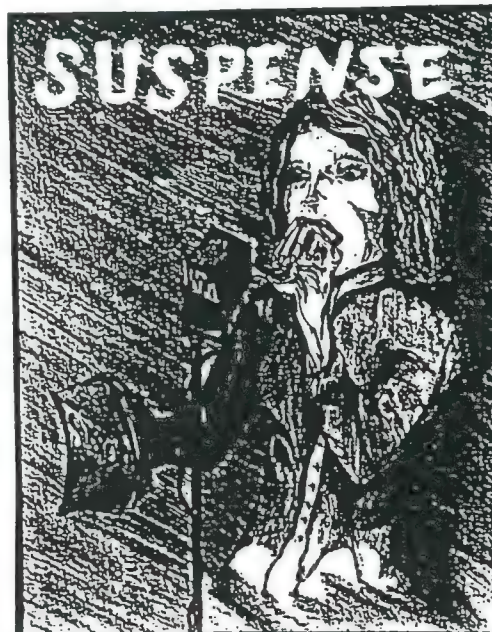
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For up-to-date information on Radio Festival events, please call the Festival Hotline at (212) 621-6709.

**THE MUSEUM OF TELEVISION & RADIO**

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Major funding for the Second Annual Radio Festival has been generously provided by The Hearst Corporation, EFM Media Management, Infinity Broadcasting Corporation, The Interep Radio Store, The Sillerman Companies, and SFX Broadcasting, Inc.

The Museum would also like to thank Ralph Guild and Robert F.X. Sillerman for funding the Radio Festival Coordinator position.



## LOGS AND LISTINGS FOR COLLECTORS OF OLD-TIME RADIO PROGRAMS

**HELLO AGAIN:** Now in its 27th year, Hello Again is the oldest independent newsletter dedicated to the traders and collectors of old-time radio shows. Much of the information it contains is contributed by collectors including: problems and techniques in dubbing, tape quality, what different collectors are doing and what they are looking for, updated info about new radio shows being circulated and logs related to old-time radio, deaths of radio personalities and much more. It also keeps you up to date on the annual Friends of Old-time Radio Convention. The next convention is Oct.23 - 25, 1997 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ.

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**SUSPENSE LOG:** This 50-page log lists every show chronologically and alphabetically. Each entry lists date, title and up to 2 performers when known. It also includes an introductory part listing directors, producers, musicians, sponsors and other important information. This log was revised in **October of 1996. Cost is \$9.50** including P&H.

**CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER:** This 100-page log lists every show chronologically and alphabetically. Each entry lists date, title and up to 3 performers when known. Written in 1996, this log costs **\$15 plus \$2** for P&H.

### **MORE LOGS AND LISTS:** (All are complete unless indicated)

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